

Saint James United Church

December 4th, 2016 – Second Sunday of Advent

White Gift Sunday

120 Chapel St. Woodstock, N.B. E7M1H1

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Minister’s Cell Phone No: 323-1304

Minister: Rev. Debra Baker

Music Director and Organist: Amy Anderson

Admin. Assistant: Mary Wheelan C.D. Coordinator: Joan Hall

Ushers: Conrad Anderson, Jeff Wright, Jolene Caverhill, Carla Opie

Candle Lighters: David and Debbie Daye

Reader: Cathy Simister



Welcome all visitors and their families who may be worshipping with us this morning. We pray that you will feel at home here at Saint James and that you will feel the presence of God’s Holy Spirit, as we worship.

After the service please introduce yourself to

Rev. Debra, sign our guest book at the back of the sanctuary and join us for soup, rolls and fellowship in the C.E. Centre.

WE GATHER

Prelude

Introit VU#10 – Prepare the Way of the Lord (sung twice)

Welcome

DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec. 4th. Second Sunday of Advent White Gift Sun. 10:30 a.m.
Please place white gifts around altar at front of church.
Sunshine Singers and Handbells
Coffee, Tea and Fellowship in Board Room

Dec. 6th Games 1:00 p.m.
Pathfinders 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Sparks 6:30 p.m.
Arthritis Group Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Dec. 7th Advent Bible Study 10:00 a.m.
Quilting 1:00 p.m.
Choir 7:15 p.m.

Dec. 8th Unity Group at Doe Stewarts 6:00 p.m.

Dec. 11th Third Sunday of Advent 10:30 a.m.
Cantata
Sunshine Singers
Coffee, Tea and Fellowship
Carleton Manor 2:00 p.m.
Youth Group 6:00 p.m.

Dec. 12th Community Cantata 7:30 p.m.
Followed by Dessert in the C.E. Centre

NOTE: Woodstock United Baptist Church
Sunday, December 4, 2016 4:00 p.m.
“Road to Bethlehem”

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern and the Lord's Prayer

Hymn MV#134 – There Was a Child in Galilee

Blessing and Sending Forth

Go in peace: seek the waters that bring new life, and do your part to reconcile the wolf and the lamb, the cow and the bear. Know that the God of peace who sent a child to lead us will never be far from us.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

(From *Whole People of God* worship resources ©Wood Lake Publishing 2016.)

Choral Benediction MV#220 – Peace Shines as the Solitary Star

Postlude

DONATION

A donation has been made to the Kirk Church in loving memory of my wife, Lorna, by Donald Cluff.

PAR REMITTANCE PROGRAM

This is a great time of year to sign up for our PAR REMITTANCE PROGRAM! If you have automatic debits from your bank account to pay your bills, then you understand the PAR principle. It means regular contributions throughout the year. Even when we are away, our church has commitments every week. This is a convenient way to support both the local church and M&S. CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE DETAILS.

Call to Worship

A voice is calling, calling in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord.

We hear the cry of those whose lives have been silenced: innocent people shot because of the colour of their skin, police officers killed while doing their jobs, refugees who die seeking freedom and new life.

A voice is calling, calling in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord.

We hear the voice of Rosa Parks quietly defying injustice.

A voice is calling, calling in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord.

We hear the voice of the prophet Isaiah, who spoke of reconciliation, of lions and lambs, of cows and bears, living together in harmony. As people of God, we are called to dream ...

A voice is calling, calling in the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord.

(From *The Whole People of God* © Wood Lake Publishing, 2016)

Advent Candle Lighting

Isaiah spoke of the Wonderful Counsellor, the Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace.

Let us celebrate our inner peace and seek peace for the world.

(light two blue candles)

Let peace embrace creation, winding like a ribbon until it enfolds the earth.

Sing VU#7 – Hope Is a Star (verse 2)

Hymn Advent News

Chorus:

Sing a song of praise and glory to the one who came to be.

Word and wisdom born among us, child of God to set us free.

God's dream for creation is coming to birth,

changes are happ'ning all over the earth.

Swords into ploughshares and tools out of spears,

peace breaking out both far and near.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

The deserts will blossom and God's justice will grow.
At the sound of God's voice healing waters will flow.
Animals ev'rywhere will start a new trend:
those who were enemies now will be friends.

My heart bursts with praise for the God who has done
wonderful things for every one!
The proud are brought down and the humble stand tall.
Peace on earth good will to all.

(Words and music by Donald Schmidt © 2002. Used by permission.)

Children's Time Gathering and blessing of White Gifts

Prayer of Confession

(From The Whole People of God © Wood Lake Publishing, 2016)

Hymn VU#958 – Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Anthem

Scriptures Isaiah 11:1-10
 Psalm 72, VU p.790, Parts One and Three
 Romans 15:4-13
 Matthew 3:1-12

Message

Music for Meditation *Marg Beattie*

Hymn VU#20 – On Jordan's Bank

Presentation of the Offering

Offertory (tune: Good King Wenceslas)

Here our gifts we offer, God, thankful for your blessings.
Take them, Spirit use them to spread the peaceful message
that Christ comes to bring to us life for all creation.
May our gifts help bring to all love and transformation.

Offertory prayer

Thank you loving Creator, for the many ways you give us hope. As we bring these offerings to you, use them to bring hope for a better world to every corner of our world. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

(From The Whole People of God © Wood Lake Publishing, 2016)

Dedication of Chapel Street Doors

Donated by Ralph & Avis Vail.

Donated by Dr. Gary Beatty & his wife Jennie in loving memory of Gary's parents Fred & Phyllis Beatty.

Donated by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

On behalf of these donors we dedicate these Chapel Street doors to the glory and praise of God.

Prayer of Dedication

Creator God, source of all inspiration and beauty, we thank you for the gift of these doors now dedicated to the glory of your name. May your Holy Spirit guide us in reverent and loving of all things remembering always your great gift to us, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour. Amen.

Minute for Mission (printed in the bulletin)

Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CALENDAR OF DEVOTIONS 2016

Cost \$ 3.00 Check at Church Office.

COFFEE HOUR *Each week we are looking for volunteers to look after coffee and tea after church.*

BOOK CLUB *The book club will be reading “Brooklyn” by Colm Toibin when it arrives. We will be hopefully meeting in January.*

CHURCH DIRECTORY. *The church directories have arrived. If you did not have your pictures taken, the cost is \$ 20.00. Thanks!*

UPPER ROOMS FOR November and December

They are located at the back of the church. Cost is \$ 3.00. We will not have large print for November and December. Will start again in January.

READERS FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby!

HANDEL`S MESSIAH—*Fredericton Choral Society & Symphony Orchestra with Sally Dibble, Deantha Edmunds-Ramsey, Cian Horrobin and Paul Bustin.*

*Wilmot United Church Woodstock Baptist Church
Fredericton Woodstock
Friday, Dec. 9, 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10 7:00 p.m.*

See Bulletin Board for availability of Tickets

Adults \$ 20.00, Students \$ 10.00 12 & Under Free

2017 CALENDARS *have arrived. Check with the church office.*

Cost \$ 7.00

TODAY`S SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder`s den. ⁹They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Romans 15:4-13

⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,

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⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; ¹⁰and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; ¹¹and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; ¹²and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall have hope.” ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:1-12

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” ⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”